(c) whether the Central Government have received representations and protests against their arrests as "Terrorists"; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As reported by Government of Gujarat arrests have been made under the Act in Connection with violent agitations and communal situations.

(b) As Law and Order is State subject, such information is not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Gujarat to ensure that there is no misuse or abuse of the provisions of the TADA Act.

Bank Loans to Persons/States affected by Droughts/Floods

1070. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

SHRI J. P. GOYAL :

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instructions have been issued by the Central Government to the nationalised banks all over the country to extend loans to the People and also to extend financial help to the States who/which have been affected by the recent droughts and floods;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines issued in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the drought and flood affected States have been benefitd as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for providing credit facilities to persons affected by droughts/floods throughout the country for raising alternative crops, fodders, etc., conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans, assistance for production of seeds, re-schedulement of investment credit where failure of crop warrents, expeditious sanction of loans for minor irrigation purposes, consumption loans to small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections upto Rs. 500/- and for setting up of fair price shops.

In areas affected by droughts/floods successively for three years or more, banks have been advised to defer recovery of the amounts fallen due for a period of two years or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. Banks have also been instructed not to charge penal interest in these cases nor should they compound interest on dues postponed. In the case of short-term loans, the total interest payable by small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount. Banks are to charge a rate of interest of 10% per annum on short term loans upto Rs. 5,000/- in the case of farmers who have suffered three or more consecutive droughts/floods and where loans have been converted/re-scheduled.

The information so far received for the country as a whole indicates that financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 206.77 crores has been provided to 2,99,094 beneficiaries. In addition conversion of short-term loans to medium term loans and re-schedulement of loans has been extended in 1,77,845 accounts involving an amount of Rs. 102.21 crores.

Help provided to the Handloom Weavers in drought affected areas

1071. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have urged the State Governments to initiate steps to help handloom weavers in the drought affected areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;